GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4364
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2008
THIRUPATI PILGRIMAGE TOURS
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have started a package tour for Thirumala - Thirupathi Pilgrimage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to extend such tours to other destinations particularly the southern parts of the country;

(d) if so, the locations identified for the same; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI R. VELU)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways is already operating package tours to Thirupathi / Thirumala from Secunderabad, Chennai & Mumbai. The duration of the packages varies from one day to 2 night / 3 days with the cost ranging from Rs. 800/- to Rs.5,499/- per person depending on duration and class of travel. These packages cover rail travel, road transport, accommodation on twin sharing bases, Darshan at Thirumala, meal, etc.

(c) to (e): There are already 80 tour packages under operation to different destinations including Alleppey, Kumarkom, Ernakulam, Munnar, Rameswaram, Mysore, Coorg, Mookambika, Dharmashtala, Coimbatore, Ooty, Madurai, Kodaikanal, Velankanni, Pollachi, Valpari, Kovalam, Thekkady and Shirdi, etc. in the Southern part of the country. Further, development and operation of new packages is an on-going process and additions are made regularly.